



1731

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: E. Alzheimer et al. Attorney Docket No.: NILE117421
Application No.: 09/892,199 Group Art Unit: 1731
Filed: June 25, 2001 Examiner: M.S. Alvo
Title: TOTAL CHLORINE FREE BLEACHING OF ARUNDO DONAX PULP

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SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH EXAMINER ON OCTOBER 16, 2003

Seattle, Washington 98101

November 17, 2003

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Applicants' attorney acknowledges with appreciation the helpful comments and suggestions made by the Examiner during a telephone interview on October 16, 2003. The following is a summary of the interview.

The pending method claims were discussed, particularly with respect to the brightness recitation. The prior art discussed was the Singh reference.

We discussed applicants' previous argument that the prior art reference fails to teach or suggest a total chlorine free bleached Arundo donax pulp having the recited brightness. Applicants had based that argument on brightness extrapolated from lignin content and kappa number, which are values provided by the prior art, because the prior art fails to expressly set forth brightness values. The Examiner stated that brightness is a term used by different people in different ways and that a variety of units are used. The Examiner also stated that it was his belief that there are many factors that contribute to brightness and that brightness does not necessarily follow lignin content.

The Examiner suggested that the brightness of the pulp produced by the claimed method be compared to the closest prior art to determine whether the claimed process provides a pulp having a brightness greater than expected based on the teachings of the prior art. Applicants'

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attorney agreed such a comparison would be useful and that applicants would consider presenting such a comparison in the written response to the Examiner's obviousness rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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